

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the amendments above and the following comments.

The sole issue for consideration is the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 14 as being anticipated by Whitbourne et al. ("Whitbourne"), US 6,110,483. In response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 1, 3 and 14 have been rewritten as claims 28-30, respectively, to reorganize the claim elements in a way that the Examiner will be able to see clearly that Whitbourne does not anticipate the present invention. Applicants do not believe that new claims 28-30 introduce new matter. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Anticipation by Whitbourne requires not only the disclosure of the instantly claimed components, but their combination in the arrangement required by the instant claims. The instant claims require that elements (a), (b) and (c) of new main claim 28 be *suspended in* element (d) of new main claim 28 *to form a composite*. Claims 29 and 30 recite additional requirements, but incorporate by reference these "suspended in" and "to form a composite" requirements of claim 28.

For the reasons advanced on pages 3-6 of the amendment dated October 10, 2006, Applicants respectfully submit that Whitbourne's teachings are not sufficiently focused to anticipate any combination of instant elements (a), (b), (c) and (d). However, Whitbourne

also fails to teach that instant elements (a), (b) and (c) are suspended in element (d) and collectively these elements form a composite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection. An early notice that this rejection has been reconsidered and withdrawn is earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a bona fide response to all outstanding objections and rejections.

Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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